SOUTH VIET NAM In Struggle

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editorial

Tricky Dick Again !

ONCE again, Nixon (known also as Tricky Dick) appeared on the TV on the night of April 7 to deliver a long rant that concluded in sonorous lazy words.

"Nixon's big political game," AP noted. In fact, an inveterate "sharper," he could not remain idle after being ruined in the Highway 9 military adventure. His big political game was just to make good the big loss he had just suffered. Actually, Nixon's speech on the TV had been prepared three months ago. Three months earlier, he had announced noisily that in April 1971 he would make an important statement on the situation in Indochina, sure as he was then to collect a big haul, and publicize the success of Vietnamization and his own doctrine. Now, as promised, Nixon has had to make his statement, more to ward off the thrash than to boast of victory. That was Nixon's bitter pain in delivering his April 7 address.

This time, on the TV screen, Nixon was still shameless but a bit more out of sorts than on March 22, 1971. This time, no traces of arrogance of threat in his statement. At times, he seemed to play on an entreating tone. It is quite understandable. He could no longer brag on at length because he himself had to confess that "South Vietnamese (Saigon troops) casualties are high". Just recently, in February 1971, he clamoured that Saigon mercenaries were strong enough to smash the liberation armed forces to pieces. But two days later, the same Saigon crack troops upon which he pins much hope were crushed pitiably and had to take a humiliating flight.

Yet, Nixon's impudence went to the length of asserting that his Vietnamization policy and the Nixon doctrine were both sucsessful. But hard facts on Highway 9 and the other Indochina battlefields have given the lie to his bragging. Across the USA and all over the world, everybody knows how the "Lam Son 719" operation ended. A closer look at that defeat reveals that it did not only imply the number of Saigon battalions or brigades written off the muster-roll, the mercenary effectives killed or captured, the debris of tanks and aircraft littering the field, but that defeat essentially pointed to the lamentable incapability of the puppet army in spite of US massive backing and all-sided coordination. The height of Vietnamization was put to the test and the fiasco of that policy remained the answer to all of its basis unknowns. Now, the Vietnamization of the war means considerable fire power of US artillery and aircraft provided to the Saigon army under American command. Ton That Dinh, an ex-general of the puppet troops, noted that the failure of the "Lam Son 719" operation had "lowered the prestige of the American military," (Cong Luan, March 16.) In fact, Nixon was waging a real "vocal warfare" by going on trumpeting on April 7 last the success of his Vietnamization strategy. But, it is no wonder that in all times there still remain those who try to sound the bugle just to drown out their defeats. Nixon is one of them. He did his utmost to sing victory, precisely because he is a poor commander who had been beaten black and blue. The humiliating debacle on Highway 9 and in north-eastern Cambodia has landed him in a puzzle which is giving him a bad headache.

IN the first place, the failure of the "Lam Son 719" operation has overheated the political climate in the USA. Outside the White House, the American people's anti-war fire is burning. Big demonstrations have broken out in many cities. Over 80 anti-war organizations have co-ordinated their activities. Millions of Americans will march to Washington and press on Nixon for a fixed date to the pullout of GIs and an immediate end to his war of aggression. Outcries of protest go crescendo. On April 10, some 500 women from various US cities held an anti-war demonstration outside the Pentagon for the immediate withdrawal of GIs from Southeast Asia. At a protest rally in front of the Pentagon, many speakers denounced Nixon as a warmonger and demanded an immediate pullout of US troops from Indochina. In the Senate and the House of Representatives, the temperature keeps rising. Senators McGovern, Muskie, Mansfield, Fulbright, Kennedy flayed Nixon's defeat in escalating the war to Southern Laos. Former Senator Goodel said that the incursion into that country was "a tragic mistake in the series of mistakes made in the past seven years." In the House, Parren Mitchell, Michael Harrington and Benjamin Rosenthal urged Nixon to end the war within 60 days. They charged him for having encroached upon Congress' power to declare war.

But more painful is the fact that many Republican Congressmen are strongly critical of his policy. Republican Representative Paul Mc Closkey has launched an anti-Nixon

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Nixon reluctant to give up his aggressive designs

ON the evening of April 7, 1971 US President Nixon once again went on the television: Except the announcement of troop withdrawal for the next seven months designed to placate public opinion, there was nothing new in his bombastic and suave rhetoric, which was only to touch the American chauvinistic chord.

Nixon dealt lengthily with his troop cutbacks over the past two years and promised to "step up" reduction of American forces to an "end of US involvement in Viet Nam." He again asserted that US troops had come to South Viet Nam not for an aggression but for the defence of freedom, that his "Vietnamization" was a success, that US-puppet invasions of Cambodia and Laos all ended in victory, so on and so forth. He reiterated his Oct. 7, 1970 "five-point peace plan": cease-fire in place, release of all POWs, withdrawal of all outside forces, etc.; he bluntly misrepresented the Vietnamese people's leniency and humanitarianism toward captured militarymen, and hypocritically showed sympathy with their relatives, other casualties of the US policy of war and aggression.

Nixon's speech has bared, more clearly than ever before, his true nature as an aggressive imperialist and an utterly die-hard bellicist, and concurrently a crafty demagogue. But what did he reap from an address which the French paper *Les Echos* wryly described as "one of Nixon's most painstaking speeches in his life as President?"

The *International Herald Tribune* in its March 29 issue remarked that recently Nixon appeared quite often on the television to desperately strive to win the support of the masses, but only to get painful and at times shameful results. Nixon did his best to soothe and hoodwink public opinion but he could not conceal the difficulties now confronting the United States. The military operations mounted against Cambodia and Laos were unmistakable failures. The "Vietnamization" program and "Nixon doctrine" have received deadly blows. The 1971 Spring Offensive of the American people against the US war of aggression in Viet Nam and Indochina, though only at its start, was likely to take on ample proportions and to cause the Nixon administration many new embarrassments. Quite a number of Congressmen from the Democratic Party and even some from the Republican Party have raised their voices to urge Nixon to end the war and to fix a time-limit for the total withdrawal of American troops from South Viet Nam.

It is crystal-clear now that to solve the Viet Nam and Indochina problems the US should immediately end its aggression and pull out all its troops from South Viet Nam and other Indochinese countries. The announcement by Nixon of a new run-down involving 100,000 GIs from May 1 to December 1, 1971 was undoubtedly a move to dodge criticism and to pose as a "dove." What he did not announce, however, was the date of withdrawal of the remaining 184,000 US troops. Clearly enough, with his present way of reducing American forces, Nixon only plotted to prolong indefinitely, the US military occupation of South Viet Nam, keep in office the US-paid Thieu-Ky-Khiem administration as a tool for US domination and aggression and turn South Viet Nam into a new-type colony and military base of the United States, in obstinate furtherance of his "Vietnamization" and doctrine.

Nixon has eluded the suggestion for US pull-out from South Viet Nam before June 30, 1971 contained in the RSVN PRG September 17, 1970 elaborations on its 10-point overall solution. He likewise slighted the reasonable suggestion of US citizens and Congressmen of US total withdrawal before the end of this year. In announcing a new reduction of 100,000 GIs in seven months, Nixon once again juggled with figures in an effort to hide from US and world opinion his real intention to carry on his aggression in Indochina. The point is not the number of US troops he will withdraw in the coming months, and the increase in the rate of withdrawal but whether the US is willing to operate a total, immediate and unilateral troop withdrawal from South Viet Nam or not.

The Vietnamese people are deeply attached to peace, but it must be peace in genuine independence and freedom. As the United States has committed an aggression against South Viet Nam, it must put an end to that aggression, it must retire quickly, totally and unconditionally all US and satellite soldiery from South Viet Nam for the South Vietnamese people to settle their own affairs without foreign interference.

We strongly condemn Nixon's arrogance and his insistence on a premium to be paid by our people for US ending of its aggression. If the Nixon administration persists in a policy of aggression, the South Vietnamese will firmly persevere in their armed resistance and together with the Cambodian and Lao peoples, will take their common resistance to US aggression to complete victory.

WAR CRIMINALS MUST BE PUNISHED

IN face of stern public condemnation of the US aggressors' horrors in South Viet Nam and of the Son My case in particular, the Nixon administration had to bring before court Lieutenant Calley, the butcher of a host of civilians at Son My. Nixon and Co hoped that this trial would divert popular attention from their own crimes in the aggressive war against South Viet Nam. They wanted to make people believe that the appalling crimes of the US expeditionary corps there were but isolated offences of some subaltern officers and soldiers on the battlefield.

Nixon had the Fort Benning tribunal pass a sentence on Lieutenant Calley after a three-day hearing. He then hastened to allow the assassin bail. Did he do that for fear that because of Calley's condemnation, US officers now in South Viet Nam would refrain from killing freely on Washington's orders?

His decision was a challenge to public opinion. As everybody knows, the US aggressive war in South Viet Nam has been piling up for many years now tens of thousands of Son Mys. With more than half a million troops, many free-firing zones, over 10 million of tons of bombs and shells, hundreds of millions of gallons of toxic chemicals, the "destroy all, burn all and kill all" tactics, Washington has been responsible for countless Son My atrocities which history will never let pass uncensored. Since Nixon's advent to power, with his "Vietnamization" such mass slaughters have become more frequent and more horrible than ever before.

Public opinion is firmly insisting that Lieutenant Calley who in cold blood killed people en masse at Son My be severely punished and that those criminals who conduct the aggressive war from the White House and the Pentagon must be tried according to the principles of the Nuremberg Tribunal.

American General T. Taylor, in his prosecution at Nuremberg stressed "The thing which must be pulled out is not only the poisoned fruit but the tree that has borne it."

Tricky Dick Again!

(Continued from page 1)

drive, and declared on March 21st that he would run the next presidential elections in Wisconsin, if the present war policy continued.

Moreover, Nixon's defeat in Southern Laos has caused the crackles inside the Republican party, while the Democrats are busy rallying their forces. Such a situation utterly troubles him, obsessed as he is by the presidential chair in the White House's oval-shaped room, by the dream of being the victorious President of the USA 200th year. He is now facing a furious tornade. Due to the war, US economic regression is worsening. The Congress turning down the projected investment in the production of civil aviation's supersonic planes, is regarded as a non-confident vote to Nixon's economic and financial line. Outside the USA the situation is still worse for Nixon. Everywhere in the world, the movement against US aggression on Indochina is mounting. People all over the world, by hundreds of millions, charge Nixon and urge him to bring the GIs home and let the Indochinese peoples settle themselves their internal affairs. Meanwhile, for their part, the US allies have to ponder over US support and to question the US much publicized military potential as well as its protection umbrella.

ALL this results from Nixon's escalation and prolongation of the war in Indochina, while the fiasco of the "Lam Son 719" and "Total Victory 1-71" operations worsens the consequences. How can Nixon remain quiet before that series of difficulties? These political problems together with military setbacks on the battlefield pile up obstacles on Nixon's road in the year prior to the 1972 presidential elections in the USA.

In such a background, Nixon therefore appeared on the TV on April 7 to deliver his address filled from end to end with worn-out fallacious peace allegations, making additional troop withdrawal his trump card thereby striving to check the mounting tide of anger in the States and the world. Following the recent rout on Highway 9, he wanted to win back some political gains. But how can he fool people when everybody knows that the tempo of troop withdrawal claimed by Nixon in his address is of no importance. Never can it be accepted as an indication of goodwill for peace. Instead, it laid bare his foolish design of maintaining the US expeditionary troops, prolonging the war of aggression in Viet Nam and Indochina, clinging to Thieu, Ky and Khiem and using them as an instrument to realize the Vietnamization and Nixon's doctrine. He has to withdraw troops, because he cannot do otherwise: the hostilities turn out to be more and more disastrous for him. Though he never wants to, Nixon has to pull out troops. He cannot carry on a war costly in lives and property — a limited war which has gone bankrupt — at the same intensity as previously, while the popular opposition spreads unprecedentedly in the USA history.

ONCE again, he tried to play a political game with the hope of winning back something. But how can he put out a fire by adding more fuel to it? How can he stamp out the anti-war movement in the United States, weld the crackles inside it and salvage the US economy from serious regression, while the root cause of the above situation remains unscathed? As long as Nixon continues the war obstinately, he will lose everything by trying to sharp the cards. The spreading angry fire of the American people and the flames of the Indochinese peoples' struggle will surely burn Nixon's Vietnamization of the war and his doctrine of aggression.

SOUTH VIET NAM IN STRUGGLE

"Special pacification" fated to failure

IN their "Vietnamization" whose essence is to prolong the desperate aggressive war in South Viet Nam and "change the colour of the corpses" as E. Bunker, US Ambassador in Saigon put it, the US and its stooges regarded "pacification" work as a measure of primary importance. Consequently, they have mobilized the major part of their political and economic forces, resorting to iron and steel and psywar methods in all-round actions mainly in the countryside and especially in villages and hamlets.

With the so-called "accelerated pacification" plan, the US and Saigon administrations thought they could subdue the South Vietnamese people in a short period of time but realities have disappointed their vicious schemes and intention.

Following up their repeated successes since 1970, the South Vietnamese people and army have thwarted the enemy "Vietnamization" and driven them on to the defensive. In co-ordination with the People's Liberation Armed Forces' widespread attacks on the soldiery providing cover for the "pacification" agents or the coercive forces, millions of South Vietnamese people have risen up to pull down most of the "strategic hamlets" and other concentration centres throughout South Viet Nam, especially in the Mekong River Delta and in Central Trung Bo (Central Viet Nam proper).

Wherever the "pacification" work was done with most atrocious methods the people there resisted with the grimmest resolve. The people's movement against the "pacification" plan took place frequently and continually, some of the actions were staged with the impetuosity of an armed uprising.

Under the impact of such a fierce opposition since July 1970, the US and its lackeys have scrapped their "accelerated pacification" plan and switched over to a new programme labelled "special pacification." That means that from their widespread "pacification" and massive encroaching actions, the US-quislings have fallen back on "pacification" of area by area and gradual encroachments. Such a shift is tantamount to overtly admitting the bankruptcy of their "accelerated pacification" plan.

Since then, the US and puppet authorities have been bending all their energies on this do-or-die "special pacification" plan as a push to "Vietnamization." They have been trying all means to wipe out the PLAF and South Vietnamese political forces and root them out the countryside. They have been feverishly stepping up Operation "Phoenix," which is essentially a systematic assassination plan, as termed by US Senator Fulbright (Express-February 18, 1970). They have been intensifying "mopping-ups" and continually conducting "search and destroy" raids on area after area, and at the same time occupying land and building posts to maintain a tight control over the people. They have been using spy-commandos, aircraft, including B.52s, artillery and chemical poisons on a large scale against South Vietnamese civilians and their means of living. The countryside has been the "target of US massive bombing and rendered uninhabitable and even turned into a desert" (*Le Monde Diplomatique*—December 1969).

The *New York Book Review Magazine* quoted on January 1, 1970 Noam Choamsky, a famous American and world intellectual, as commenting that the US "pacification" plan was aimed at triggering off a massive exodus from the countryside to the cities so as to reduce the population under the NFL.

But could US B-52 aircraft chemical poisons and guns help them cut the "grassroots population" of the Front and win the "hearts and minds" of more than 97 per cent of the South Vietnamese people as puppet President Thieu has been claiming?

SINCE July 1970, when the US switched over to the "special pacification" program, the South Vietnamese people and army from Quang Tri, Central Trung Bo, to provinces of Nam Bo (South Viet Nam proper) have been successfully resisting the US-Saigon new move.

In the delta south of Quang Tri rated "completely pacified" by the enemy, the regional people and army rose up in arms on the night of August 28, 1970 against the enemy in all parts of the district capital and military sub-sector and many posts, and knocked out or decimated ten civil guard and militia companies and platoons.

In their assault on Tra Bong district capital (Quang Ngai province) on the night of September 7, the PLAF put out of action one battalion, 2 companies and 4 platoons of civil guards, spy-commandos and military scouts. People in South Trung Bo wiped out several wicked thugs in the enemy assassination and kidnapping teams called "Phoenix" and assaulted many village puppet administrative offices.

In Rach Gia, after 15 consecutive days of activity on the Vam Dinh waterway and Vinh Tuy road the South Vietnamese people and Liberation fighters levelled 9 posts, inflicted more than 1,700 casualties, wiped out one battalion and 6 companies of civil guards, 6 "pacification" teams and disbanded hundreds of "civilian defence" members.

In Central Nam Bo, between July and September 1970, more than 300,000 people rebelled and besieged many adverse posts, broke the enemy grip and recovered control of many areas.

In September 1970, people in West Nam Bo demolished more than 300 "strategic hamlets" and regained control of more than 124 hamlets.

After the 1970 gains, the South Vietnamese people and army again struck at the enemy "special pacification" plan in the first months of 1971.

In February 1971, the people in Quang Nam and Binh Dinh provinces (Central Trung Bo) overran many "strategic hamlets" and concentration areas including 8 big concentration camps, liberating tens of thousands of internees and took control of many localities. In Phu My and Hoai Nhon districts alone (Binh Dinh), 10 such concentration centres and "strategic hamlets" were pulled down, the adverse troops forced to withdraw 8 posts, 10 militia platoons disbanded and the enemy coercive apparatus crushed by big chunks.

In Darlac (High Plateaux), people of various minority origins destroyed "strategic hamlets" and returned to their native places.

In January this year, in West Nam Bo, 186 "strategic hamlets" and concentration centres were erased, especially in areas regarded as "completely pacified."

In the period under review, in Vinh Long ard Tra Vinh provinces more than 60 "strategic hamlets" were blotted out and many "popular defence" teams disbanded. The US-puppet repressive machinery in several villages and hamlets of Cang Long, Cau Xe and Tra On districts (Tra Vinh) and Tam Binh, Binh Minh and Chau Thanh districts (Vinh Long) was heavily shattered. People in Vinh Long wrested back control over a 20 km-long stretch of land.

In February 1971, more than 80,000 inhabitants in 70 villages of My Tho province broke 82 "stategic hamlets," disbanded 300 "popular defence" teams, won back control of 30 hamlets and liberated tens of thousands of inmates.

Together with the people's uprisings in the second half of 1970 and in early 1971, the movement of leaving "strategic hamlets" and concentration centres for the native village has also been mounting in all provinces of South Viet Nam, throwing the US and its hirelings into complete confusion and passivity. In the newly liberated areas, the people have elected revolutionary administrations, founded liberation organizations, started a new life, set up fighting villages and hamlets, determinedly defended the revolutionary gains and stood ready to fight off enemy inroads.

The South Vietnamese people's and army gains in the fight against the adverse "pacification" plan have given the lie to the US-quislings' claimed control of over nearly 100 per cent of the territory and population in South Viet Nam. The tough and relentless resistance to "pacification" once more shows that however vicious and atrocious the US aggressors and their lackeys may be and it "accelerated pacification" or "special pacification," the South Vietnamese people and army in the end will get the upper hand.

As a US-Saigon all-out counter-offensive carried out in the context of a losing position and worsening predicament resulting from reverses in all Indochina and particularly from the Highway 9 debacle, the "special pacification" is most likely to suffer the same fate as its predecessor.

NIEN NGUYEN

IN SOUTH VIET NAM CITIES

PUPILS AND STUDENTS' ACTION

AS a result of the students' firm and sustained action, on April 3, puppet Premier Tran Thien Khiem had to receive a student delegation led by Huynh Tan Mam, President of the Students' Union, and to promise them to reconsider their demands concerning cessation of the encirclement of the Union's seat and the Minh Mang students' hostel, a licence to the students to publish their own magazine, and revision of sentences illegally passed on a number of students. But all these promises were never kept.

Consequently, on April 5, 15 Saigon students resumed their hunger-strike in protest against the Thieu administration's continued persecution. They declared that their demonstration would last until the puppet administration put an end to its crack-down.

On the anniversary of Kings *Hung*, on April 3, more than 300 high-school students at My Tho township organized a cultural evening with many items glorifying the resistance of the nation and the youth against foreign aggressors and their Vietnamese agents.

TAX ON WAGES RESISTED

In the last days of March, all the workers of the three oil firms Shell, Esso and Caltex signed collective petitions to the puppet administration, demanding cancellation of the tax on wages.

The same claim was put forward by the totality of employees in private companies and workers of 20 banks, the Air Viet Nam Company, the Saigon harbour etc. They were joined by overseers and specialists in many firms.

Angered by the dismissal by US employers of more than 30 workers at one time, employees of American companies in Saigon set up an Action Committee to force the US firm owners to reinstate the dismissed workers or pay them adequate allowances.

PAPERS FINED AND SEIZED

On two consecutive days, April 1 and 2, 24 Saigon dailies and weeklies were fined each from 300 to 25,000 piastres, thus raising to 50 the number of papers financially penalized since the beginning of this year.

AFP reported on April 6 that the latest two issues of the French weekly *Express* and other recent issues of *Le Monde* and *Le Figaro* were prohibited in Saigon for their articles on the Laos invasion. Prior to this, two American magazines *Time* and *Life* had been also banned in South Viet Nam—for the second time in two weeks.

ATTEMPT ON AN OPPOSITION MP' LIFE

On March 29, Thieu's agents attempted on the life of Duong Van Ba, an opposition MP in Saigon. Ba was seriously wounded.

THE CALLEY TRIAL DENOUNCED

Saigon students have joined the world at large in denouncing Nixon's farcical trial of Calley. "The Calley sentence," they said, "should also be passed on many GIs here. It is unfair that Calley's superiors are not punished."

Tin Sang (Morning News) carried an article condemning US criminal actions against the South Vietnamese people. The article said *inter alia that*: The Calley case shows that the US troops in South Viet Nam just treat the South Vietnamese like Indians: either they kill them or lock them up in cages.

EXPLOITS ON THE HIGHLANDS

TAKING advantage of the US-puppet deep morass in all the Indochinese theatres of operation, the Highlands armed forces and people have mounted repeated attacks and widespread uprisings, and struck hard at the enemy "pacification programme." According to still incomplete figures, since early March they have *wiped out and captured nearly 4,000 enemy troops (including over 100 GIs), destroyed 170 military vehicles, downed about 30 aircraft, blown up many storages and war means while attacking and rising up in 45 "refugee centres" and "strategic hamlets," helping more than 10,000 people break the enemy grip,* demolish concentration camps and return to their native places or gain local control. In March, the Highlands liberation armed forces fought major dramatic annihilation battles. They knocked out the puppet 42nd Regiment at Ngoc To Ba, 48 km northwest of Kontum, stormed Phu Nhon district town (north of Darlac province), put out of action 500 enemy troops among them the district deputy head and one puppet mixed battalion comprising 5 infantry and artillery companies at Peak 1001, northwest of Kontum. *APF* disclosed on April 4 that *"the Viet Cong pressure was tremendous in Military Sector 2 particularly in Kontum province."* These violent offensives and widespread uprisings of the Highlands armed forces and people in the last month threw utter confusion among the US-puppets. One major commanding an air force unit in this region commented: *I used to recall the 1968 Tet offensive but now I don't evoke it. The Viet Cong are strong at present* (*UPI*, April 4, 1971).

The Highlands battlefield is in the charge of the puppet 2nd Army Corps—whose HQ is seated there—with a huge US air and artillery support. In face of the repeated raids by the liberation armed forces over the last years the enemy have had to dig in in a cluster of strongholds along major communication lines: Roads 14, 18 and 21. They occupy the peaks shrouded in mist all the year round, relying on aircraft for their supply. Only with a big support dare they venture a raid but not without heavy losses (in an operation early this March the US-puppets had to muster 8 Saigon infantry, artillery and mechanized battalions with an infantry, artillery and air support from the US 173rd Brigade). The three battalions of the 42nd Regiment suffered serious losses at the hands of the liberation troops: Battalion One was written off (with many US advisers); Battalion Two was depleted of over two-thirds of its strength. The liberation armed forces have also assaulted well-defended positions, razed many posts, knocked out many enemy troops like in the attack against Phu Nhon district town. In this battle they went at the position, major communication lines and the enemy reinforcements, exacting a toll of over 700, seized and destroyed about 30 vehicles and downed 10 aircraft. In the blotting out of the artillery base on Peak 1001, they put out of action one mixed battalion and, with the guns of the fire base, put the reinforcements to rout. The Highlands armed forces and people also attacked airfields and logistic bases, inflicting heavy enemy casualties. Recently, the guerillas and regional forces wrecked many military convoys on Roads 14, 19 and 21. Overcoming the difficulties of a jungle fight and the frantic strikes of the US air force, the Liberation Armed forces closely coordinate actions between their three categories of troops, fight with courage, resourcefulness and creativeness, and destroy much of the enemy manpower. Starting from small engagements they manage to wipe out one battalion each time, fighting at first by night they now stage daytime onsets, in some assaults they even capture tanks and turn their guns against the enemy. These marked advances in technique, tactics, organization and command have increased their pressure upon the US-puppets on the Highlands battlefield.

Enemy dug-outs overrun and occupied by South Viet Nam PLAF fighters.

True to the Revolution, the Highlands armed forces and people have persistenlty and repeatedly risen up and destroyed "strategic hamlets" and returned to their native place in order to foil the US-puppet "pacification programme" despite all the enemy's schemes to coax and buy them off and all their devastating strikes blotting out whole villages, herding population, spraying of toxic chemicals in high dose and great volume against cultivation and life on the ground. In March 1971, 10,000 people rose up to wrest back power.

The successful resistance of the South Viet Nam Armed Forces and people on the Highlands is unquestionably thwarting the US-puppet "Vietnamization of the war."

It is from this battlefield (together with the Mekong Delta battlefield) that the US troops were first pulled out (4th Division) to hand over "pacification" duty to the puppet troops. There the latter have been trained to conduct operations and set up enclaves with US firepower support as a test of "Vietnamization." However, the long encirclement of Dak Sieng (north of Kontum), the assault on it and the attack on its reinforcement have landed the US-puppets in a fix. The enemy had to admit that it was a serious challenge to their "Vietnamization," mutinies and desertions in their ranks coupled with the relentless strikes of the Liberation Armed Forces have constantly put the US-puppets on the alert to cope both with the patriotic troops and with their own troops.

For one year the Highlands armed forces and people have maintained the initiative on the battlefield, mounted series of attacks and simultaneous uprisings, and took a heavy toll of the enemy manpower and war material. The March 1971 victory was a new headache for the US military command. Wrote *UPI* of April 4, 1971: *The allied command in Saigon could not explain why the fighting flared up after Operation 'Lam Son 719' by 24,000 government troops in South Laos."*

The answer is forthcoming: because of the growth of the Liberation Armed Forces and the spirit of continuous attacks and ceaseless uprisings of the South Viet Nam people, typified by the Highlands armed forces and people's repeated and important successes in March 1971 against Nixon's "Vietnamization."

THANH HONG

A U.S. Base Rushed Within Minutes

XA DOC base, nicknamed "Mary Ann" by American troops, was defended by Battalion 1-46, Brigade 196 of Division Americal. Built on a hilly area of over 500 metres long and nearly 250 metres wide in Quang Nam province, it comprised two high points linked together by a saddle-like valley. All vegetation there was removed and a position with strong fortifications was erected. Outside the position was a network of barbed wire fences from 40 to 50 metres wide, and inside were dozens of blockhouses, bunkers and "dig-in" areas, all forming an inter-related support position. The base was divided into three sections: an infantry company occupied the north-western peak, the battalion CP and another infantry company the southeastern peak, and the whole "saddle" area was an artillery emplacement.

With a large force, strong fortifications, a rugged terrain and the round-the-clock ready support from gun-sites in Hoi Tranh, Phuoc Lam..., Xa Doc base seemed completely immune from any assault.

Section A of the People's Liberation Army in Quang Nam was assigned to overrun the adverse position. After a careful survey of the situation, the patriotic forces were quickly deployed as planned. At 1.30 a.m. on March 28, 1971, the PLAF artillery began hammering the enemy stronghold, demolishing segment by segment of wire entanglements, and blotting out gun-nests one after another.

The whole Xa Doc base rocked violently and collapsed by big chunks. The Liberation shock fighters charged soon after the shelling had stopped. Round after round of submachinegun fire swept the trenches, knocking down group by group of adverse troops. Hand-grenades exploded in all bunkers and entrenched blockhouses. The American company at the north-western peak was tightly encircled by the patriotic forces. A heavy machine-gun at the left stronghold tried to open up but was immediately silenced by a single anti-tank shell. The adverse artillery gun-site in the "saddle" area was put out of action at the very start of the fighting. The guns which had daily played havoc among the local population were blown up besides their crews.

Meanwhile, on the south-eastern high point, the GIs, taking advantage of their high position, put up a stubborn resistance. H. entrusted with the levelling of this post ordered his men to wipe out its perimeter with petards, and like a whirlwind, they broke into the signal centre. After only a few minutes' combat, they rushed towards the battalion CP from all corners, and concentrated their murderous fire on the last resistance pocket.

The battle rapidly came to an end: the patriotic forces got complete control of the battlefield, wiped out Battalion 1-46 of US Brigade 196 composed of the battalion CP, an artillery company and two infantry companies.

The US battalion was written off so quickly that its commanders in Chu Lai base were given no time to come to its rescue.

Quoting admittance by the US Command in Saigon, *AP* wrote on March 30, that the PLAF in one hour inflicted "what is possibly the highest death toll among American troops for any single attack on a US installation in the Indochina war."

SPRING

To the heroic South Viet Nam Youth on the occasion of the 10th founding anniversary of the Youth Association for the Liberation of South Viet Nam (April 24).

CHINH came to her friend's house to say goodbye.

Nga stopped the hand-mill, shrugged her shoulders, scratched her head and, rounding off her eyes at Chinh, exclaimed:

"You're going really?"

"Yes, on the second day of Tet."

"Good heavens!"

Nga felt upset. Past memories flocked back into her mind. Once she took part in the destruction of a "strategic hamlet" with Chinh, and fearing of being ambushed on the way home, they spent the night in a tiny empty duck-herd's shed in an open ricefield. When they got up the next morning, they saw to their surprise that the shed was full of puddles of water. Another day, they walked past a military post at Nga Ba with a hidden bundle of leaflets. Unfortunately, the bundle slipped to the ground from Nga's elastic belt, and the wind sent the tracts flying all about. So many other things were conjured up in a rapid succession.

Suddenly Nga tapped her friend's knee, saying:

"You are lucky!"

Then they gazed at each other and burst into laughter.

Chinh ran up to Ha now watching enemy aircraft on a tree branch. At the news of her team mate's departure, Ha jumped down and asked:

"Why don't they let me to go too?"

"I don't know."

"All the three of us were on the list. Why did they only pick you out?"

If not on duty Ha would have gone forthwith to see Viet, the village guerilla commander, for an explanation. The farewell meeting had thus turned unexpectedly into a discussion about why Ha had not been allowed to go. A member of a three-girl guerrilla team, she only feared that a hit plane might crash on her head, instead of being scared by its bombs and bullets:

"Put in a good word so that I may go with you."

"What?"

"I'm going in a few moments to have a hammock made for me." *

"Why such a hurry?"

Ha's face fell.

"Here when you get at their posts," Chinh broke the heavy silence, "don't forget to fire also my share of shots, will you?"

"No more posts left to raid," Ha retorted.

"You cross the Ngang canal and join the boys over there."

After a moment's reflection, Ha stopped scratching her cheek with the tocsin stick and asked:

"With you gone, will Nga and I carry on the job by ourselves?"

"You just follow the boys where they'll go," Chinh answered most naturally.

"Why don't you wait until Tet is over?"

Arriving in front of her home late in the evening Chinh stood at the veranda and peeped in through her house's open door—something that she had never done before. Binh, her younger brother, was sleeping. Her mother was about to pound glutinous rice to make pancakes with. Her hair was still black but her sight had dimmed; she had to bend down and look very close to make sure the flour was all right. "And I'm leaving her and little Binh!" Chinh said to herself.

Handing the pestle to her daughter, the old woman asked:

"How will you come home on leave when you are so far away?"

"Don't worry, mummy, the liberated zone's very large now."

Thud! Thud! The pestle hitting the mortar sounded just like Binh's earthen hand-grenade when crashing on the ground. It did no alarm anyone as this and the neighbouring villages were safe now that no more adverse garrisons existed. More and bigger operations, however, were mounted in many other areas and Chinh had volunteered to participate in the counter-raids. Enemy ruffians and even murder-drunk Yankees at the district town, could be dealt with effectively. After dusk Ha, Nga, other female guerrillas and their male comrades would swim across the Ngang canal for coordinated actions with fighters based inside or in the vicinity of the town.

Chinh gently pushed Binh's head a good distance from the mortar. Looking up, she told her mother:

"Mummy, don't forget to put the 2 *cong* ** we're just got from the Front under sugar-cane."

"Oh! don't bother your head about it, think rather of your new job."

So saying, the woman glanced at her daughter who, she now realized, had never behaved like this before.

So far it had been her who told her daughter what to do.

Chinh's family had lately received two of the twenty *cong* of land recovered after the blotting out of a puppet garrison. Here children were at present free to come and dance to the sound of their drums, or to graze their buffaloes. And the new landowners, not yet ready for ploughing or raking, could hardly start sowing.

"Darling," said Chinh's mother, "do you know where you're going? Will you remain in the province or go to base?"

"I'm going where they will take me to. Look, mummy, grow sugar-cane."

"What?"

"Don't grow tobacco, the watering is too hard a job for you," Chinh insisted.

"I don't think so. But I'll only worry about you."

Chinh was joining the liberation army when the whole village was all in a bustle preparing for the traditional Tet festival. The first *banh tet* *** had appeared. In groups of two or three, helicopters whirred in every day trying to seek out the village's guerrillas in retaliation.

All the three members of Chinh's team had entered their names long ago, right after the election of the "strategic hamlet" belt on the edge of the village. Since then, late in the afternoon, patrolling civil guards with smooth hair, dark spectacles and smoking cigarettes, would ride around the village. The belt [illegible] of the girls but could not hold them back. It however could not alter their mutual affection. It brought them closer, chums as they were since they still wore their hair plaited, and emboldened them. Every day they would follow oxen's footsteps to bring food to guerrillas in underground hide-outs. At night they would carry each a kerosene lamp that glimmered like a star. Guided by these three lights, cadres and fighters returned to the village, and within the "strategic hamlets" scores of other "stars" appeared.

Before that, sometime before nightfall, Chinh, betel leaves in hand, came to lanky Nga who would climb on a tree and shake it, as a signal to Ha. Then all the three, clad in fine colourful blouses, each from a different direction converged on an unknown place. Everyone in the village was aware of all this and expected some dramatic development the day after. The next morning, now one heard of a policeman strangled in his spotted uniform on his bed, or a wicked clerk, who used to pencil his eyebrows, was found tied to a pole near the "strategic hamlet" belt—as a warning from the NFL, now one saw a large portion of the belt torn down. On the eve of such "events," Chinh would sit alone in a ricefield, a kerchief round her neck in cold weather. Fighting against aggressive mosquitoes, she acted as a look-out from the moment the evening star looked like a lamp-light until the moment the morning star sank into the horizon reddened by the rising sun. As to Nga and Ha, together with elder mates, they carried lead wire to the liberated areas or did other jobs assigned them by Front cadres.

One morning, despite the cold weather, they jumped into a brook before returning home. Wet through, they looked as if they had come back from a fish-catching trip and did not arouse suspicion as they strolled past a military post.

On another occasion, after three days' absence Chinh brought back three hand-grenades. Gazing at them, Nga thought they were on the point of exploding while Ha stopped up her ears as though they actually were. Then team leader Chinh took one of the grenades and rolled it in her hands like a potato, and showed her friends how to trap it.

In view of the good jobs the girls could do on the spot, the Front did not let them join up.

After the "strategic hamlet" belt had been shattered and their village liberated, they asked to go up once again. Ha argued that she would be seventeen at Tet and that if they did not allow her to "go up," she would be too old to be a good fighter. She said Ba Nghe, a guerrilla, kept proposing to her, and should she stay on in the village, she might agree — which she wished would not happen. As for Chinh, she loved carrying arms and marching up hill and down dale as soldiers do. The district news bulletin reported Taylor's heliborne tactics had been foiled, Kennedy's "strategic hamlet" system virtually wiped out, and that Kennedy himself had been killed. NCO Ri's son, always in close-fitting trousers, who had deserted the puppet army, had come back from Saigon and said that the city's students were rebelling and enemy troops fighting against one another. The girl guerrillas wondered why in such a situation they were not permitted to go to the front.

Chinh's mother had always thought that after the liquidation of the "strategic hamlets," her daughter would no longer have to work so hard. Aware of her frame of mind, Chinh remained silent and sad.

Ha's grandfather, hard of hearing, asked her one question after another about what the enemy was up to. She had to shout her answers into his ears: "District chief Phong has withdrawn his troops to Thom township."

Nga wrote to her brother, a zonal cadre: "All the three members of my team take part in the siege of enemy garrisons; mother brings us food up to the orchard whose coconut trees are now stripped of their leaves by the bombing, other girls of our hamlet carry out agitation among puppet troops..."

District chief Phong was no more than a snake at bay. Guerrilla fighters now operated close to Thom market.

A new life had set in. *So dua* trees were budding, sugar-canes sprouting. Chickens took shelter in hibiscus hedges. In the newly-built school little boys and girls, repeating the alphabet under the guidance of a woman teacher, at once likened letter "O" to a hand-grenade. Uncle Hai Ngang's two-string instrument resounded late into the night while, in the moonlight, children pressed around Nga to learn folk dances.

"District chief Phong really means to hold out," said Chinh to her mother.

Such was the situation. The enemy did not dare fan out to strike at the guerrillas, neither were the latter strong enough to deal them a deadly blow in their own lair.

NGUYEN THI

(To be continued)

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* *Usually a liberation fighter has a hammock, often made of nylon material in which he sleeps at night, especially in forest-covered areas* (Translartor).

** *A* cong *equals one-tenth of an hectare.*

*** *Cylinder-shaped cake made of glutinous rice wrapped in banana leaves. It is made especially at Tet.*

1971 FIRST QUARTER

LAOS AND CAMBODIA'S TREMENDOUS GAINS

LAOS:

IN the first quarter of 1971, the people and army of Laos won considerable successes, putting out of action more than **22,400** enemy troops, including nearly **5,000** Vientiane troops, over **16,000** Saigon soldiers, more than **1,000** Thai mercenaries and over **500** GIs, *Khaosan Pathet Lao* reported.

In terms of units, the casualties included **6** brigades and regiments of Saigon troops wiped out, a regiment of Vientiane soldiers and over **20** Vientiane and Thai battalions written off or heavily decimated, the heaviest losses in the war in Laos in a 3-month period inflicted on adverse forces consisting of Lao and Saigon soldiers and Thai mercenaries.

The Lao PLA collected more than **7,000** firearms of various types including over **200** guns and mortars, nearly **200** transmitters, downed or wrecked more than **560** aircraft mostly helicopters,destroyed or damaged over **660** military vehicles, more than a half of them tanks and other armoured cars.

As a result, the biggest operation ever by 45,000 US and puppet troops in Southern Laos was shipwrecked, which was a failure of strategic significance, and a shattering blow at the Nixon doctrine to "pit Asians against Asians" under the strongest support of US aircraft and firepower of all kinds, and a blow at the Nixon administration's aggressive will in Laos in particular and in Indochina in general.

Also most significantly, relentless and successful actions were mounted from North Luang Prabang to the Boloven High Plateau, a number of areas of strategic importance retaken, the defensive operation conducted from early this year by the US and Vang Pao armed agents in East Xieng Khoang foiled and the latter driven back to their biggest den. Moreover the big Muong Sui base was overrun, Long Cheng and Sam Thong encircled, a part of the enemy force there wiped out, and at the same time a number of remaining pockets of armed agents in various places of Xieng Khoang province swept off. An important area east of the Boloven High Plateau (Southern Laos) was recaptured, the adversary around Luang Prabang besieged and an important area north and northeast of Luang Prabang reoccupied and cruel thugs' dens in the two northern provinces of Luang Nam Tha and Udomsay assaulted. The liberated areas were consolidated and expanded, the enemy defensive position throughout the country aggravated and their already sinking morale ever more shaken.

The regional army, militiamen and guerillas remarkably staged well-coordinated actions with the regular army, ambushing or attacking groups of wicked ruffians, disrupting enemy communication lines, helping the people's forces bring the political offensive deep into the enemy ranks, promoting agitation among enemy troops, and aiding the latter in mutinies or collective desertions.

Consequently, facilities have thus been provided to the Lao people and army to progress to ever more important successes in combat as well as in national construction.

CAMBODIA:

IN the first 3 months of 1971, the Cambodian people and army continued to uphold the initiative, attacked the enemy without respite and most successfully, *AKI* announced. After still incomplete statistics, in the period under review, the Cambodian patriotic forces killed or wounded nearly **18,000** adverse troops including over **10,000** Saigon men, or **32** battalions (including 23 Saigon battalions) and **13** columns of tanks and other armoured cars wiped out or heavily damaged. The Cambodian people and army also seized or destroyed **1,270** military vehicles, mostly tanks and other armoured cars, blasted out of commission **110** guns, erased many storages of ammunition and other war materials, grounded **205** aircraft, sank **24** river craft and set afire **15** others of the Lon Nol and Saigon troops.

— Those were very destructive blows at the strategic bases of primordial military and economic importance of the Lon Nol — Sirik Matak clique, such as Pochentong airport (January 22),the Oil Refinery at Sihanoukville (March 2), at many strategic communication axes. They revealed the ineffectiveness and weakness of the Lon Nol army which the US had been striving to build and support, spelled out the bitter failure of the Saigon army assigned by Washington to act as task force of the Phnom Penh troops.

— The defeat of US — Saigon Operation "Toan Thang 1-71" clearly illustrated the Cambodian people's armed forces' offensive and winning position, the militant solidarity and indomitable strength of the three Indochinese peoples, and was instrumental in the checking of a serious step in "Vietnamization."

— All the three army branches of the Cambodian National Liberation Armed Forces struck hard and achieved outstanding exploits on all battlefields. They attacked not only adverse strategic bases, but also communication lines, especially Highways number 7, 4, 1 and the Mekong waterway, bested the adversary not only in the mountain region and the countryside, but also in coastal and urban areas. They fought the enemy while steadily building and developing their forces, fulfilled their combat mission while holding firm control of, and broadening, the liberated areas. They have worsened the Lon Nol regime's critical situation, and the US imperialists and Saigon troops' stalemate and compounded their Lao disaster. On the other hand they have paved the way for the patriots' further advances.

SOUTH VIET NAM: THE LAND, PEOPLE AND HISTORY

NEWS-MAKING HIGHWAY 9

HIGHWAY 9 runs from Dong Ha town (Quang Tri province South Viet Nam) to Savannakhet (Southern Laos) for about 327km. From a foot-path at the beginning of this century the French colonialists forced the local population to build it into a metalled strategic road tarred in many places.

Twelve kilometres west of Dong Ha it passes Cam Lo, an old district town where the plain meets the majestic Long Range, then reaches Tan Lam, Sa Muu, Khe Sanh, Huong Hoa, Lang Vay, Lao Bao which the US aggressors had built into a cluster of military bases.

Milestone "83.1" separates South Viet Nam from Southern Laos. From there Highway 9 crosses Kaki bridge, branches off to Ban Dong where the US-Saigon Operation Dewey Canyon II (alias Lam Son 719) had met with total failure.

On Highway 9, in 1622 the Vietnamese Nguyen feudalists set up a garrison at Cam Lo to control the communications between Viet Nam and Laos. In 1885, national leader Ton That Thuyet turned it into a base of resistance against the French aggressors.

Dong Ha, where Highway 9 starts, was a crossroads, a commercial centre between North Viet Nam, South Nam, and Laos. On its both sides stretch hills grown with tea, coffee, pepper, oranges, tangerines, pine-apples, jack-fruit belonging to Sima, Tayla, Rom... plantations formerly owned by French colonists. The iron ore and lime in this region were also in their hands. The hills of tea and the groves of coconuts and pine-apples succeed one another in dark or light patches, drawing an undulating line as far as the eye can see.

Climbing on the mountains the road then snakes between high cliffs, or worms through a vast forest girdling fantastic-looking mountains, or overlooks tumultuous waterfalls or meandering streams. Towering at 420m the Ai Lao pass divides the water eastward to Thach Hau river or westward to Se Bang Hien. The Thach Hau river which reflects the mountains and the clouds passes Mai Lanh, a thriving market town.

Highway 9 looks like a beautiful picture.

This fertile region, however, was made by the French colonialists into a penitentiary with the notorious Lao Bao hell on earth, and a strategic way to dominate Laos and encircle the rear base of South Viet Nam. No wonder that the building of Highway 9 was stigmatized by the following verses:

To build a road for the French,
We have to leave our native places,
Our wives and our children.
To build a road for the French,
We have to lay waste our fields
And run into debts...

Today the US imperialists have changed it into a no man's land, driven the local population off their milpas and compelled them to serve as cannon-fodder or subject them to arrests and massacres.

Following in their predecessors' steps the people of Highway 9—Khe Sanh—Lang Vay... have risen up. In the spring of 1968 they wiped out over 17,000 US-puppets, downed over 400 aircraft, destroyed nearly 150 military vehicles, more than 50 heavy guns, set ablaze over 50 depots of munitions and fuel... Artillery Battalion N., Infantry Company 2, Anti-Aircraft Company 1 of the Liberation troops threw consternation among the US-puppets. Heroes Bui Ngoc Duong, Ta Van Thieu. Nguyen Huu Tinh, Nguyen Huu Quyen... added lustre to the patriotic spirit of the heroic armed forces and people of Highway 9—Khe Sanh. There the Dong Ha army and population have time and again poured their fire of hatred on the US-puppet positions.

In the historic days of February and March 1971, the people and armed forces of Highway 9—Khe Sanh in co-ordination with those of Ban Dong—Southern Laos frustrated US-Saigon Operation Lam Son 719, part of Nixon's "Vietnamization of the war" policy.

On Highway 9, valiant Lao Bao, Khe Sanh, Lang Vay, Ta Con, Tan Lam, Dong Ha... will continue to write glorious pages of history for the indomitable Central Trung Bo and glorify the tradition of victorious fighting against foreign invasion of the South Vietnamese people and their armed forces.

UNDYING GIRON SPIRIT

THE historic victory won ten years ago by the Cuban armed forces and people after a 72-hour grim battle against the invasion of the US imperialists on Giron beach is still fresh in the minds of the world peoples.

It has given a strong fillip to the national liberation movement in the world in general, and in Latin America in particular, where 300 million people are fighting stubbornly against US imperialism.

Ten years ago, if someone said Cuba was the beacon of the revolution in the Western hemisphere, he was hardly believed; but now, this can give people food for thought.

In fact, in the past decade, Cuba has not only stood firm on her feet and developed under the very nose of the US colossus, but she has dealt it staggering blows, thwarted many of its schemes of aggression, incursions, division, sabotage, economic blockade and political containment. She has been steadily advancing on the road of socialist revolution and shaping for her people a happier and happier material and spiritual life.

In the past decade, in the wake of the Giron victory, under the leadership of the Cuban Communist Party and Revolutionary Government headed by Fidel Castro, the Cuban people have wrought wonders; they have consolidated the Republic of Cuba and stepped up the revolution.

Everywhere in this young republic, a movement is in full swing to erase all traces of poverty and backwardness and build a prosperous socialist country.

The Cuban people have recorded outstanding achievements in national defence and in the economic and cultural fields. In the 1970 sugar-cane crop, they obtained the highest yield ever and this year's crop which commenced in November 1970 under the slogan "Forward, constantly forward" bids fair to be plentiful.

In fact, the first million tons of sugar was gathered in on January 27 last and the fifth million on April, 1971.

Undoubtedly, Cuba has set a glowing example for all labouring people in the world. At the same time she is the strong bulwark of the socialist camp in the Western hemisphere and the torch lighting up the path of the revolutionary movement in Latin America. With regard to our country, in the spirit "ready to shed even their blood for Viet Nam," the Cuban people have supported with might and main our resistance against US aggression.

The recent gains of the three Indochinese peoples have touched off in Cuba a vigorous drive to build the country and support the Indochinese peoples against US aggression.

Many a time the Cuba Party and State leaders have affirmed their wholehearted and resolute support to the struggle of the Indochinese peoples and absolute confidence in their final victory.

Observing the 10th anniversary of the Giron victory, the South Viet Nam people and PLAF convey to the brother Cuban people and armed forces their most cordial greetings.

They pledge more intensive revolutionary efforts to win bigger successes and outwit the US in the East, as a contribution to the victory of the Cuban people over that imperialistic power in the West.

We wish the Cuban people success in their forward march animated by the "undying Giron spirit."

24th CPSU CONGRESS CALLS FOR SUPPORT TO INDOCHINESE PEOPLES

THE 24th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union on April 8 adopted a call on Indochina.

The call reads in parts:

"On behalf of the Soviet Communists, on behalf of the entire Soviet people, the 24th Congress of the CPSU extends passionate fraternal greetings to the heroic Vietnamese people and its militant vanguard — the Viet Nam Workers' Party—, to the courageous patriots of Laos and Cambodia, to the fearless fighters against US imperialism, for freedom, independence and the peaceful future of the countries of Indochina.

We wish the invincible defenders of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam further victories in repelling the imperialist aggression, new achievements in the construction of socialism.

We state our full solidarity with the forces of liberation in South Viet Nam and wish them new successes in the struggle to rid their homeland of the interventionists and the corrupt Saigon regime, for asserting the right to decide their destiny themselves.

Our sympathy and our support go to the patriotic forces of Laos and Cambodia, which are waging a decisive struggle against the imperialist intervention of the United States, in defence of their righteous cause.

The Soviet people are full of pride for the victories of the heroic Vietnamese people, the glorious patriots of Laos and Cambodia, who are dealing crippling blows at the American interventionists and their hirelings."

After having denounced the Nixon administration's criminal acts, adventurist schemes and political intrigues, particularly the so-called "Vietnamization of the war," that outrageous principle which consits in "making Asians kill Asians," the appeal of the 24th Congress of the CPSU stresses:

"The Soviet Union is deeply convinced that the proposals set forth by the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, the Patriotic Front of Laos and the National United Front of Cambodia, offer a constructive basis for the solution of the problems of Indochina.

The Soviet Communists believe that in the prevailing situation to strenghten in every way and everywhere solidarity with the embattled peoples of Indochina and to come out vigorously against the aggressive policy of the US ruling circles, is an urgent need.

The Soviet Union has given and is giving all-out support and aid to the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam in the building of socialism in strengthening its defence capacity, in repelling the imperialist encroachments. It has come out and is coming out consistently and resolutely on the side of liberation movement in South Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia, which is making out-standing contribution to the cause of the peace and national independence of the peoples. The 24th Congress of the CPSU solemnly declares that the Soviet Union will follow this course in the future too.

The 24th Congress of the CPSU calls on all those who cherish freedom, peace and progress: still louder raise the voice of protest against the sanguinary aggression of American imperialism in Indochina! Resolutely and boldly expose the crimes of the American military, come out in support of the heroic peoples of Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia! May the worldwide movement for an end to the imperialist aggression in Indochina, for the withdrawal of all the troops of the United States and its allies from there, for the realization of the legitimate rights of the peoples of Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia to be masters in their own land, grow wider and stronger!

The US aggressors out of Indochina!

The just cause of the heroic peoples of Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia will triumph!"

Viet Nam — Syria ever strengthening militant friendship

25 years have passed in independent Syria. Numerous developments in this period have further spelled out the legitimate pride of a nation possessed of an age old civilization and a three-century-old tradition of unyielding resistance against the Turkish, British and French imperialists. This nation now is confronting US imperialism and the Israeli aggressors to defend its sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity, and build a prosperous country.

All over the country, a new impetus is animating the building of an independent and self-supporting economy. Along with the nationalization of American oil companies and the increase of taxes on transport of US and British oil across the Syrian territory have been going up industrial establishments in North Syria, the state owned oil exploitation sector, the Euphrate Dam project capable of watering 600.000 hectares of land and with a one-million kilowatt capacity, the 130-km-long Rakka-Deir-Ezzor railway project... In addition, the Syrian people have also been steadily expanding their defence forces, heightening vigilance and standing ready to foil every new military adventure of the US imperialists and Israeli aggressors and liberate the Golan High Plateau.

As a country in the Middle East spoiling for a fight against imperialism, old and new colonialism headed by the US imperialists and closely associated with the national liberation movement in the area and the world over, Syria has constantly been giving its staunch support and assistance to this common cause. Concerning the Palestine liberation movement, President Haefz Assad has said: "Syria is like a lung for the Palestine resistance war to breathe by Syria will continue fighting at the Palestine people's side whether Israel withdraws from the Golan High Plateau or not" (AFP — *March 17, 1971.*)

Cemented by the common effort against the French colonialists in the past and the US imperialists at present, the friendly relations and militant solidarity between Viet Nam and Syria have been for many years now strengthening unceasingly and splendidly. The joint communiqué between the Republic of South Viet Nam and the Arab Republic of Syria published on the occasion of the visit to Syria from November 6 to 10, 1969 by a delegation of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam led by Tran Buu Kiem, unequivocally stated: "Both parties unanimously held that the South Vietnamese and Syrian people — two comrades-in-arms on the same battlefront against the US imperialists and their stooges — are incessantly strengthening their brotherly relations and militant solidarity. Both parties deemed it necessary to go on doing so. The message of congratulation of the Syrian BAATH Party for the 10th founding anniversary of the South Viet Nam NFL said: "Our people and Party follow with pride your just and glorious liberation struggle against the US occupation forces, and pledge militant solidarity with you till the last American soldier quits South Viet Nam." Weeks of solidarity and meetings in support for Viet Nam against US aggression have been ebullient in Damascus and other places. Syrian press and radio have published or broadcast articles praising the South Vietnamese people and PLAF successes, and denouncing the US crimes, machiavellian propaganda and schemes and acts to prolong and widen the aggressive war in Viet Nam and throughout Indochina. The Syrian people, BAATH Party and government have also been striving to give material aid to the South Vietnamese people.

From their trenches hot with hatred for the US imperialist aggressors — the common enemy of both Vietnamese and Syrian people — the South Vietnamese people hail the achievements of the brotherly Syrian people in the past 25 years, as their own. The South Vietnamese people are determined to support the Syrian people's just struggle for national independence, and demand that the Israeli aggressors withdraw from the illegally occupied territories: respect the Arab countries' independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, and the Palestine people's legitimate national rights.

The South Vietnamese people warmly wish the brotherly Syrian people ever greater progress in the defence and building of their prosperous country. They believe that their glorious cause will surely triumph and contribute a worthy part to the Arab countries' common battle for national rights, for the liberation of Palestine, the defence of peace in the Mid-East and the world.

Vietnamese and American Students' Common Cause :
A RAPID END TO THE U.S. WAR OF AGGRESSION

In last December, a joint declaration was made public in Hanoi by the delegations of the Students in the United States and North and South Viet Nam. Follows is the full text of the joint declaration—Ed.

THE delegation of students from the United States of America, on a visit to the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam from December 4 to December 19, 1970, has met with the delegation of the Viet Nam National Union of Students and the delegation of the South Viet Nam Liberation Students Union.

The three parties exchanged views and were agreed that :

The American and the Vietnamese peoples have never borne any grudge against each other. The American people once fought and overthrew the rule of British colonialism.

The Vietnamese people are endowed with a tradition of undaunted struggle to defend their motherland against foreign invasion. Both peoples share the earnest desire to strive for genuine and lasting peace, and for friendship among all nations on the basis of equality and mutual respect.

The 1954 Geneva Agreements on Viet Nam have recognized the Vietnamese people's fundamental national rights, namely : independence, sovereignty, unity and the territorial integrity of Viet Nam. However, the US authorities have betrayed their pledge. They have sabotaged the stated agreements, they have carried out an unceasing intervention in South Viet Nam in an attempt to turn it into a military base and a colony of the United States, and perpetuate the partition of Viet Nam ; they are conducting against the Vietnamese people one of the cruelest wars in history. Over the past decade, they have caused great and untold suffering and mourning to the Vietnamese and the American peoples, they have devastated innumerable towns and villages in Viet Nam, they have done great harm to the interests and good name of the United States, and have pushed young Americans into the path of horrible crimes as in Son My and other places.

The war of aggression in Viet Nam and that in Laos and Cambodia contradict the spirit of the 1776 Declaration of Independence of the United States of America and the American people's independence and freedom-loving traditions.

The struggle of the Vietnamese people and that of the American people against the aggressive war in Viet Nam are closely inter-related and encourage one another.

However, one cannot be substituted for the other. The Vietnamese people alone can defend their independence and freedom through a staunch and persistent fight waged without fear of hardships and sacrifices. The American people alone, through a bitter struggle, can reverse the US authorities' policy of intervention and aggression in Viet Nam and elsewhere and can defend the honor of the people of the United States.

Betraying its promises of an early end to the war, the Nixon administration is frantically carrying out the "Vietnamization plan" and intensifying "pacification" operations with the utmost barbarity in an attempt to prolong the war and perpetuate the occupation of South Viet Nam. Furthermore, it has stepped up the "special war" in Laos, expanded the war into Cambodia, and multiplied acts of war against the DRVN, an independent and sovereign country. It is now threatening to carry the war to North Viet Nam.

President Nixon's five-point program is clearly designed not to bring about peace, but to cover up the continuation and extension of the war in Viet Nam. It is designed not to reduce but to increase the US commitments and push the United States into new military adventures in Indochina and South East Asia. Without making a commitment to a date for the total withdrawal of US forces from South Viet Nam, the recent Nixon proposal for a "cease-fire in place" attempts to justify and maintain the continuing presence of American forces in South Viet Nam in violation of Vietnamese sovereignty and independence.

On the basis of the agreed views mentioned above, the Delegation of the Viet Nam National Union of Students, the Delegation of the South Viet Nam Liberation Students Union, and the Delegation of American Students affirmed that :

1) The US Government must respect the fundamental rights of the Vietnamese people as recognized by the 1954 Geneva Agreements. It must put an end to the aggressive war in South Viet Nam by completely and unconditionally withdrawing from South Viet Nam its troops and those of the other foreign countries in the US camp by June 30, 1971. It must permanently end all encroachments upon the sovereignty and security of the DRVN.

2) The US Government must withdraw all support from the illegitimate Thieu-Ky-Khiem regime, and let the South Vietnamese people settle among themselves their own affairs without any foreign interference.

3) The US Government must respect the independence, peace and neutrality of Laos and Cambodia in accordance with the 1954 and 1962 Geneva Agreements, and put an end to its aggression and intervention in these two countries.

4) In the common struggle to end the war and restore peace in Viet Nam on the basis of respect for the fundamental national rights of the Vietnamese people, the Vietnamese and American students, together with their peoples, will do their best to promote mutual understanding and mutual support, and to develop friendly relations between the two peoples.

5) Together with their peoples, the Vietnamese and American students are fully confident that the just resistance of the Vietnamese people will end in total victory. This will be a victory of the two people's desire for peace, independence and freedom, a victory of the lasting friendship between them.

Done in Hanoi, on December 17th, 1970

The Delegation of Students from the United States of America :

— RICARDO BERTRAN
— TERRIE EVELYN COOK
— JOSEPH PHILIP CLARK CRAVEN
— JAMES ALBERT DOHERTY
— RONALD LEE EACHUS
— MICHAEL FRANCIS ENG
— CHARLES DOUGLAS HOSTETTER
— DAVID MICHAEL IFSHIN
— RODERICK JOHN MACPHERSON
— KEITH S.PARKER
— JOSEPH NICOLA PICHIRALLO
— MARK M. RASENICK
— ANTHONY ROMAN
— MARK LAWRENCE WEFERS
— REBECCA WILSON

For the Delegation of the South Viet Nam Liberation Students Union :
NGUYEN THI CHAU

For the Delegation of the Viet Nam National Union of Students :
DO VAN HIEN

United States
1971 Spring Anti-War Drive

THE 1971 Spring Anti-War Drive has been started in the US jointly by the People's Coalition for Peace and Justice and the National Peace Action Coalition. It has rallied many organizations of labouring people, GIs and veterans, religious communities, the Third World, the academic circles, personalities, peace organizations.

At New York University, many meetings and sit-ins were held on April 1 by students and representatives of many mass organizations. The delegates of the Students Mobilization Committee to End the War in Viet Nam and the Woman Strike for Peace and other organizations scored the extension of the Indochina war by the US ruling circles and called on all anti-war forces in the US to pool their efforts in the common action.

On April 2, also in New York, a big meeting took place in front of the town hall with the participation of various organizations such as the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee, the Young Workers Liberation League... The gathering called for united action for the cessation of the war.

Two days later, 4,000 New Yorkers (white and black) demonstrated in Wall Street for an end to the Indochina war and release of American citizens detained for dissent to the US government's home and foreign policies, and denunciation of poverty in the States. Meanwhile, 3,000 people from New York and other states staged in Central Park a meeting commemorating the assasination of Luther King three years ago. Representatives of many organizations including H. Williams, Vice-President of the Southern Christian Leadership castigated the Nixon administration's prosecution of the criminal war in South-East Asia while in the United States there were 50 million poor people, 15 million starvelings and 6 million jobless persons. Dr Benjamin Spock called on all American progressives to join in the fight for peace and social justice and against the common foe, the US imperialists and reactionaries. Mrs Coretta King sent a message to all American citizens exhorting them to take part in the march on Washington scheduled for April 24 next for the termination of the war and repatriation of all US troops.

Meanwhile, in Chicago, 3,000 demonstrators displayed slogans urging an end to the Viet Nam war, poverty, segregation and oppression. A speaker, George Willey, Chairman of the National Welfare Rights Organization said that members of his organization would fight with might and main for peace and declared that the US war in South-East Asia was also a war against them.

In Washington, public attention was focused on two sit-ins in which the demonstrators requested that Nixon put an end to the Indochina war. The first one was staged on April 5 in front the White House by 92 Evangelist and Christian priests and the editors-in-chief of four religious magazines, the second one on April 9 by 300 people in front of a church near the White House, when Nixon came to attend a mass, with slogans against Nixon's aggression and war provocation policy.

In Cleveland, an anti-war meeting was held in which Mr Stokes, the mayor, called for an end to the war. At the annual convention of the teachers' TUs held in the same city, a resolution was adopted demanding repatriation of all GIs.

Also on April 9, over 100 clergymen at Rochester (New York State) came out against the Indochina war. Anti-war protest also was voiced in the American religious circles when 25 priests and vicars made on February 10 a statement denouncing Nixon's Vietnamization policy and urging the repatriation of all GIs. Other organizations such as the American Friends Service Committee, the Clergy and Laymen Concerned, the Fellowship of Reconciliation, also did their bits for the success of this Spring offensive by publishing on March 11, 1971 an open letter to Nixon asking him to set a deadline for the withdrawal of all US troops from Indochina and an end to all military, economic and political aid to the Thieu-Ky-Khiem triumvirate who did not represent the South Vietnamese people.

This Spring offensive has already drawn a number of American statesmen such as Senators of both Republican and Democratic Parties: Hatfield (Origon), V. Dellum (California), John Coneyers (Michigan) Mitchell (Maryland), Mrs Bella Abzug (New York), Rosenthal (New York) and Harrington (Massachusetts). In Georgia the two houses have passed a bill demanding that Nixon, announce a time-limit to the complete withdrawal of all GIs from Indochina, Senator Muskie condemned Nixon's refusal to fix a dateline for this operation and declared to the peace marches on April 24 next.

SOUTH VIET NAM — CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION